

A
BALLAD
ON THE TAKING OF
Bergen-op-zoom



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A
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I

HAN'T you heard of a Fortress, renowned in Fame,
Possess'd by a Lady, *Batavia* by Name,
Who's the Pride of all *Flanders* for Beauty and Bloom?
What Place can compare with sweet *Bergen-op-zoom* ?

II

When the Count first drew-near, and with Pleasure beheld
Her lovely fine Towers surveying the *Scheld*,
'T was diverting to see how himself he did plume,
With the Thoughts of subduing sweet *Bergen-op-zoom*.

III

Tho' strong by its Site, as by Nature befriended,
With Rav'lings, and Bastions, and Curtains defended,
He began his Approaches, yet stinted for Room,
In Hopes to be Master of *Bergen-op-zoom*.

IV

In vain her fair Out-works he oft did affail.
Tho' always repuls'd yet he scorn'd to turn-tail :
But his Onsets renewing, he still did presume
By Degrees to prevail o'er sweet *Bergen-op-zoom*.

V

"If to me fair *Batavia*, said he, you 'll resign,
" All Acts of Hostility I shall decline ;
"Tho' with Cannon and Mortar prepar'd I am come
"To batter in Breach your lov'd *Bergen-op-zoom*.

VI

" To this she replied, brisk Soldier forbear,
" I never will buy a Cessation so dear :
" Her Maiden-head ¹⁾ she shall convey to her Tomb;
" No Favour expect then from *Bergen-op-zoom*,

VII

" Tho' so much renown'd for your Prowess in War,
" And taking Forts larger than mine is by far,
" Do the worst that you may with your Cannon and Bomb,
" You shall ne'er have the Keys of my *Bergen-op-zoom*.

VIII

When he found that Persuasions were used in vain,
He try'd if by Art he the Fortress could gain :
He said he'd retire, and shortly march home,
Nor think more of storming her *Bergen-op-zoom*.

IX

The Lady believ'd him, yet still kept her Eyes
Upon all his Motions, for Fear of Surprize :
Thus unactive, a while did his Vitals consume
Impatient to enter her *Bergen-op-zoom*.

¹ This is a Term apply'd to *Bergen* by the *Dutch*, on Account of her never having been taking before, tho' 3 Times besieged.

X

At Length as one Morning the Walls he did scour,
He spy'd a small Sally-port open before,
When strait rushing forward, he quickly made Room,
And thus got Possession of *Bergen-op-zoom*.

XI

The Lady surpriz'd, to call-out did begin:
But alas ! 'twas too late when the Hero was in,
Who, ravish'd with Joy, cry'd in rapturous Fume,
O! the lovely! - the charming !- sweet *Bergen-op-zoom*.

XII

He erected his Standard the Rampart upon,
Yet she had the Courage to pull it thrice down ;
And had she persisted, without Beat of Drum,
She might have recover'd her *Bergen-op-zoom*.

XIII

.But such was her Flutter, in that fatal Hour,
To make more Resistance she had not the Power :
While the Count of a Courtier the Air did assume,
And thus he address'd her in *Bergen-op-zoom*.

XIV

" Fair Lady, said he, tho' by Art I have gain'd
" What perhaps from your Coyness I ne'er had obtain'd
" I shall always regard my Success as your Boon,
" And be kind, for your Sake, to your *Bergen-op Zoom*

XV

“ If you keep but your Promise, Lady *Batty* reply'd,
" To obey your good-Pleasure shall still be my Pride:
" Nor shall I henceforward repent of my Doom,
" But freely surrender my *Bergen-op~Zoom*.

FINIS

